

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 /041 W
-----124539 281023Z /11
R 280850Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0740

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TOKYO 15519

STADIS FOR EA AND H//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, JA, US
SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE

REF: TOKYO 13559

1. AS CONGRESSIONAL ACTION PROCEEDS ON GLENN/ROTH RESOLUTION APPROVED RECENTLY BY SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, WE ARE FACED WITH EFFORTS BY AT LEAST TWO COMPETING ELEMENTS OF LDP TO POSITION THEMSELVES TO DOMINATE JAPANESE RESPONSE TO A FORMAL U.S. EXCHANGE PROPOSAL WHEN AND IF IT IS AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS. EIICHI NAKAO (REPRESENTING SEIRANKAI, A GROUP OF NATIONALIST-MINDED "YOUNG TURKS" IN LDP) UPON HIS RETURN FROM A U.S. TRIP TO SEEK SUPPORT FOR HIS PROPOSED "JAPAN-UNITED STATES INTERLEGISLATIVE COUNCIL," INFORMED AMBASSADOR OF HIS EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE A LARGE INTERPARLIAMENTARY SYMPOSIUM IN JAPAN IN NOVEMBER.

2. NAKAO HAS PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH COPIES OF LETTERS ENDORSING PROPOSED NOVEMBER 13-18 SYMPOSIUM OVER PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA'S SIGNATURE ADDRESSED TO VIRTUALLY ENTIRE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP (SENATORS BYRD, BAKER, TALMADGE, MAGNUSSON, STENNIS, CANNON, JACKSON, LONG, SPARKMAN;
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CONGRESSMEN O'NEILL, WRIGHT, RHODES, FOLEY, MAHON, PRICE, ZABLOCKI, MURPHY, TEAGUE, ULLMAN). THE LAST TIME THIS HAPPENED, IN CONJUNCTION WITH NAKAO'S ABORTIVE EFFORT TO ORGANIZE A SIMILAR SYMPOSIUM THIS SPRING, FUKUDA'S OFFICE INDICATED REGRET THAT PRIME MINISTER HAD ENGAGED HIMSELF PERSONALLY TO THIS EXTENT BUT POINTED OUT THAT SUCH ENDORSEMENTS WERE GIVEN LIGHTLY AS MATTER OF COURSE IN JAPAN

UPON PERSONAL REQUEST AND THAT FUKUDA SIGNED IN HIS CAPACITY AS HONORARY CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL RATHER THAN AS PRIME MINISTER. WHILE WE HAVE NOT VERIFIED EXTENT OF PRIME MINISTER'S INTEREST IN SYMPOSIUM, IT MAY ATTRACT MORE THAN USUAL ATTENTION IN CONGRESS BECAUSE OF "JAPAN-UNITED STATES INTERLEGISLATIVE COUNCIL" LETTERHEAD, TAKEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH SFRC PASSAGE OF GLENN-ROTH RESOLUTION. (AT LEAST TWO LEADERS OF MODERATE OPPOSITION, NLC CHAIRMAN KONO AND DSP DIET MEMBER ROO WATANABE, THEMSELVES MUCH INTERESTED IN EXPANDED PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE, HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN TO EMBOFF ABOUT NAKAO'S ACTIVISM.)

3. NAKAO INDICATED HE DOES NOT YET HAVE COMMITMENTS FROM INVITEES TO ATTEND SYMPOSIUM, ALTHOUGH HE UNDERSTOOD LARGE NUMBER OF CONGRESSMEN WOULD BE VISITING JAPAN OR NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AT THAT TIME. (AMBASSADOR HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN TEAGUE, INDICATING HE WILL BE IN JAPAN ON ENERGY MISSION AND PLANS TO ATTEND SYMPOSIUM FOR ONE DAY.)

4. LDP LOWER HOUSE MEMBER MINOWA (REPRESENTING GROUP OF OLDER DIET MEMBERS ON RIGHT WING OF LDP), FOLLOWING U.S. TRIP TO PROMOTE "U.S.-JAPAN INTERPARLIAMENTARY DEFENSE COUNCIL" (REFTEL) HAS IN TURN INFORMED PRESS HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ARRANGING FOR A LARGE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO COME TO JAPAN IN NOVEMBER. MINOWA ALSO CALLED ATTENTION

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TO GLENN-ROTH RESOLUTION, IMPLYING HIS ACTIVITY WAS RELATED TO IT.

5. IN CONVERSATION WITH BOTH NAKAO AND MINOWA REPRESENTATIVE HORIE, BOTH OF WHOM CALLED ON AMBASSADOR TO SEEK HIS VIEWS ON GLENN-ROTH RESOLUTION AND ENGAGE HIS SUPPORT FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE GROUPS, AMBASSADOR UNDERSCORED EXPECTATION THAT JAPANESE REPRESENTATION IN A FORMAL PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE WOULD BE SUPRAPARTISAN LIKE OUR OWN. HE ALSO SAID THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF EXCHANGE PROGRAMS ALONG LINES OF AGREEMENTS WITH CANADA AND MEXICO WOULD NORMALLY REQUIRE FORMAL ACTION BY JAPANESE DIET.

6. WE INTEND TO CONTINUE TO MAKE THESE POINTS IN RESPONSE TO ANY FURTHER EFFORTS TO OBTAIN EMBASSY ENDORSEMENT FOR PARTISAN EXCHANGE EFFORTS, WITHOUT OF COURSE INTERFERING WITH ACTIVITIES OF PARTICULAR DIET MEMBERS. WE WOULD HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT CONGRESSMEN WHO ARE APPROACHED WOULD BE FULLY AWARE THAT GROUPS SUCH AS THOSE OF NAKAO AND MINOWA ARE NEITHER SUPRAPARTISAN NOR BROADLY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LDP. ONCE CONGRESS HAS COMPLETED ACTION ON GLENN-ROTH RESOLUTION AND A HOUSE COUNTERPART, WE BELIEVE BEST COURSE

WOULD BE FOR CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP TO COMMUNICATE DIRECT-
LY WITH PRESIDENTS OF BOTH HOUSES OF DIET WITH REQUEST THAT
THEY CONSIDER APPROPRIATE MEANS OF ESTABLISHING JAPANESE
COUNTERPART ORGANIZATION. AS NAKAO, MINOWA, AND OTHERS HAVE
POINTED OUT, THERE MAY BE PROBLEMS IN BRINGING SOME LEFTIST
ELEMENTS OF OPPOSITION ABOARD -- THEY HAVE ALSO CALLED
ATTENTION TO TRADITION THAT DIET RESOLUTIONS OF THIS SORT
ARE NORMALLY PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. EMBASSY IS OF COURSE
PREPARED TO COOPERATE IN ENCOURAGING ESTABLISHMENT OF

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 /041 W
-----124544 281022Z /11
R 280850Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0741

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 TOKYO 15519
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VIALE COUNTERPART MECHANISM. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TOKYO15519
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780350-1173
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780815/aaaaamvj.tel
Line Count: 148
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b617635a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 78 TOKYO 13559
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1596800
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE
TAGS: PINT, JA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b617635a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014